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Title : Need to include Indian agricultural products into the list of WTO and Indo--ASEAN Free Trade Agreement.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, the Government of India is in the process of short-listing the list of sensitive items under the Agreement on Agriculture and the Non-Agricultural Market Access, NAMA for finalizing the modalities of tariff reduction under the WTO Agreement. The Government is also finalizing the list of sensitive items to be included under the Indo-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement.

The ASEAN countries enjoy similar agro-climatic conditions as prevailing in Kerala and are also the major producers and exporters of cash crops and spices in which Kerala has a comparative advantage. The Government of India should take steps to include pepper and pepper products, cardamom, tea, coffee, ginger, turmeric, coconut, copra, coconut oil and natural rubber in the sensitive list of WTO and Indo-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. The Government should also take steps to register Alleppey Green Bold Cardamom and Malabar Extra Bold Pepper under the Geographical Indications Register of the WTO.